

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0236

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ELAB, AORG, XX, DA

SUBJ: EAST-WEST METAL WORKERS CONFERENCE

1. AT AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW IN NOVEMBER 1973

THE CHAIRMEN OF SEVERAL METAL WORKERS UNIONS (INCLUDING JACK SCANLON

OF BRITISH AMALGAMATED ENGINEERS AND SULO PENTTILA OF FINNISH

METALWORKERS UNION FROM WESTERN EUROPE) APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO

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PREPARE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF METALWORKERS UNIONS IN THIRD

QUARTER OF 1974 AROUND THE THEME "SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS, WORKING CONDITIONS, FACTORY ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT LEVELS WITHIN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY AND RELATED BRANCHES". PREPARATORY COMMITTEE INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF METALWORKERS UNIONS FROM GREAT BRITAIN, ITALY, EAST GERMANY, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE USSR, JAPAN, FINLAND, FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA (ALL OF WHOM EXCEPT THE LAST WERE IN ATTENDANCE). IN ADDITION, THREE PLACES WERE RESERVED FOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM EGYPT, ARGENTINA AND FROM THE AMERICAN UAW.

2. PENTTILA, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY APPOINTED CHAIRMAN, HAS INVITED MEMBERS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO MEET IN HELSINKI MARCH 4-6 TO CARRY FURTHER THE PLANS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. ALSO INVITED WERE CHAIRMEN OF DANISH, NORWEGIAN AND WEST GERMAN SWEDISH/METALWORKERS UNIONS.

3. PAULUS ANDERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH METALWORKERS UNION, TOLD LABATT THAT PENTTILA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING IN MOSCOW AND HIS ROLE IN HOSTING THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING IN MARCH CAUSED A MAJOR BROUHAHA AT THE JAN 21-22 MEETING OF NORDIC METALWORKERS FEDERATION IN HELSINKI. HE SAID BERTIL LUNDIN OF SWEDEN AND LEIF SKAU OF NORWAY HAD JOINED HIM IN CRITICIZING PENTTILA'S FURTHERANCE OF A SOVIET PROJECT THAT WAS CLEARLY INTENDED TO SPLIT THE WESTERN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT NORDIC LEADERS, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, PERMITTED PENTTILA RELATIVELY A FREE HAND IN MATTERS OF CONTACT WITH SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, BUT THEY FELT THAT HIS ACCEPTANCE OF ROLE AS HOST OR CHAIRMAN OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WAS BEYOND ALLOWABLE LIMITS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE SINCE THE NORDIC METALWORKERS CHAIRMEN HAD AGREE LAST FALL NOT TO ATTEND THE MOSCOW MEETING.

4. WHEN RESENTMENT OF THREE SCANDINAVIAN CHAIRMEN BECAME CLEAR, ANDERSEN SAID PENTTILA ARRANGED MEETING WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, WHO EXPLAINED IMPERATIVES OF FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. ACCORDING TO ANDERSEN THIS INCLUDED REFERENCE TO SAK-AUCCTU EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND DELICACY OF FINLAND'S POLITICAL RELATIONS TOUSSR AT POINT WHEN FINLAND WAS CONCLUDING FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH EC.

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5. ANDERSEN HAS PLACED THIS QUESTION ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING OF NORDIC METALWORKERS FEDERATION. HE TOLD LABATT THAT LUNDIN, SKAU AND HE WOULD NOT ATTEND PREPARATORY MEETING. IF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE GETS OFF THE GROUND, HE WILL RAISE QUESTION OF IMF ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONFERENCE AT IMF CONGRESS JULY 2-6 IN STOCKHOLM
DUNNIGAN

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